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RATIONALIZATION OF THE WORK AND REFORM OF THE AGENDA OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 48/87 entitled "Rationalization of the work of the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee)", adopted without a vote on 16 December 1993, the General Assembly, inter alia, urged the Secretary-General to provide the appropriate means and adequate resources to the Office for Disarmament Affairs (subsequently renamed "Centre for Disarmament Affairs") of the Secretariat in order to ensure that it could carry out its mandated tasks, in particular those relating to deliberation and negotiation, taking into account existing resources constraints, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

II. STEPS TO STRENGTHEN THE CENTRE FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS

3. During the reporting period, a number of actions have been taken to strengthen the effective functioning of the Centre in terms both of its substantive activities and of the resources required to carry them out. In substantive terms, the Centre, as a part of the Department of Political Affairs, is better placed to translate into action the concept of integrating arms control and disarmament into the broader context of international peace and security. Thus, working side by side with the Department's six regional divisions, which deal with preventive diplomacy and peacemaking, the Centre can contribute more effectively to these activities by bringing into them the elements of arms control and disarmament. Similarly, the political expertise provided by the regional divisions has facilitated the work of the Centre in its regional approaches to disarmament.

4. In terms of resources, the Centre has been strengthened by:

(a) The upgrading of a D-1 level post to the D-2 level for the Director of the Centre, which was approved by the General Assembly by its resolution 48/228 C of 29 July 1994;

(b) The redeployment of one D-1 post from Headquarters to Geneva for the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Chief of the Geneva Branch of the Centre;

(c) The return of one encumbered P-5 post from elsewhere in the Secretariat, together with one encumbered General Service other-level post.

5. In addition, the Centre has been reorganized in order to address its new priorities more effectively. For this purpose, its activities have been streamlined in some areas and resources redeployed so as to enhance the work of the Centre in all its areas of responsibility, including those related to deliberation and negotiation.